

## PRESS RELEASE FOR 25TH ANNUAL FAA AVIATION FORECAST CONFERENCE

### Highlights of Jane Garvey's Presentation

March 7, 2000

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Commercial Forecast Reports Eighth Consecutive Year of Aviation Growth - "Aviation Enjoyed One of its Best, If Not the Best, Decade Ever"

WASHINGTON - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Jane F. Garvey announced today that during the 1990s and amid the longest post-war U.S. economic expansion in U.S. history, aviation enjoyed one of its best, if not the best, decade ever in terms of growth and expansion. The announcement came as the FAA released its FAA Aerospace Forecasts Fiscal Years 2000-2011, which reports that the commercial aviation industry ended the 1990s by recording its eighth consecutive year of air traffic growth, while the general aviation fleet has also made significant increases.

"The Clinton administration recognizes the importance of aviation to our nation's economy and its vital role in everyone's lives," said Garvey. "To meet the unprecedented growth predicted for air travel, throughout the 1990s we have laid the groundwork for an aggressive modernization of the airspace system infrastructure. The FAA is determined that, during the 21st century, Americans will be afforded the safest, most secure and efficient airspace system in the world."

The nation's air carriers, braced by one of the strongest economies on record, experienced a record estimated 664.5 million people traveling on U.S. commercial airlines in 1999. According to figures released today, this trend will continue, with the number of air travelers increasing to more than one billion in 2011. In addition, U.S. commercial air carriers reported an operating profit of \$8.6 billion in 1999, only slightly less than the record \$9.3 billion earned in 1998.

The number of domestic passengers traveling on large commercial air carriers is expected to increase to 594.8 million in 2000, an estimated 3.2 percent increase over 1999. For the period 1999 through 2011, passenger levels on large commercial aircraft are forecast to increase 3.6 percent a year, reaching 880.1 million in 2011. To accommodate this expansion, the FAA forecasts that the large commercial aircraft fleet will increase from 4,312 in 1999 to 6,400 aircraft in 2011, an annual increase of 3.3 percent.

Paralleling the increase in domestic air traffic, the number of passengers on large U.S. and foreign flag carriers traveling to or from the United States is expected to increase to 137.6 million in 2000, a 4.2 percent increase over 1999. This growth is expected to continue at a 5.1 percent rate each year reaching 239.4 million in 2011. Over the 12-year forecast period, growth is expected to be the strongest in Latin American and Pacific markets, growing by 6.1 and 6.0

percent, respectively. U.S. air carrier international enplanements are forecast to increase to 55.6 million in 2000 and grow by 5.5 a year, reaching 101.7 million in 2011.

Outpacing the large air carriers, regional commuter airline enplanements are forecast to increase to 78.2 million in 2000, an estimated 8.1 percent increase over 1999. Enplanements are expected to increase by 5.5 percent each year, reaching 137.5 million in 2011. In addition, the commuter passenger fleet is expected to increase from 2,237 aircraft last year to 3,186 aircraft in 2011, an annual increase of 3 percent. The regional jet fleet is expected to grow from 343 aircraft in 1999 to 1,546 in 2011, an annual increase of 13.4 percent.

General aviation in the United States is continuing to improve. The general aviation fleet is expected to increase from 206,500 in 1999, to 231,000 in 2011, a 0.9 percent yearly increase. The turboprop/turbojet fleet, the fastest growing segment, is forecast to increase 3.2 percent annually.

To meet the projected increase over the next decade in air traffic, the FAA has an aggressive modernization plan in place. It is projected that aircraft operations at FAA air route traffic control centers will increase from 45.7 million in 2000 to 59.4 million in 2011, growing 2.4 percent each year.

The FAA forecast provides extensive historical data and forecasts for the period 1999 through 2011 for large U.S. commercial air carriers, the nation's regional/commuter airlines, general aviation, and the military, and cargo airlines. The report will be released at the agency's annual Aviation Forecast Conference held March 7-8 in Washington, D.C. For the first time in over a decade, the conference will combine discussion of both commercial and general aviation forecasts. The goal is to emphasize the interdependence of these two major elements of the aviation community.

Members of the public can contact FAA's Statistics and Forecast Branch at (202) 267-3355 to obtain a copy of FAA Aviation Forecasts Fiscal Years 2000-2011. The media can contact FAA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 267-8521.